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City of Salisbury Awarded \$649,924 through COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) Grant Funding

Federal Funding to Maintain Salaries and Benefits for Four Salisbury Police Officers for Three-Year Period

Salisbury, NC _July 30, 2009 – The City of Salisbury and the Salisbury Police Department have been awarded an approximate \$649,924 in grant funding through the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP). Vice President Joe Biden and Attorney General Eric Holder appeared in Philadelphia on Tuesday of this week and announced grant recipients and respective funding allocations. City Manager David W. Treme and Police Chief Mark Wilhelm received acknowledgement directly from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The coveted grant provides salary and benefits in support of four Salisbury Police Officer positions. Funding is allocated and be distributed over a three-year period. The CHRP grant provides funds directly to law enforcement agencies, across the nation that possess the primary law enforcement authority to create and preserve jobs. CHRP funds assist municipalities by increasing their capacity for community policing and by providing support for current crime prevention efforts.

City Manager Treme and Chief Wilhelm note that the City of Salisbury is “extremely grateful” for being named as a recipient of these federal funds. Through receipt of this federal funding, the Salisbury Police Department will be able to maintain its current staffing levels. Without this federal funding support, the department was possibly facing a reduction in staff in terms of sworn police officer positions. The funding is part of a \$1 billion economic stimulus program created under the Obama Administration for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers. Designated funds are provided to assist cities in overcoming the need to “lay-off” police officers due to lack of sufficient funding. CHRP is a highly competitive grant program; no local match is required by municipalities that receive the funding. CHRP grants provide 100 percent funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for three years in support of newly hired, full-time sworn officer positions, existing unfunded vacancies, or the rehire of officers who have been laid off as a result of local budget cuts. At the conclusion of the 36-month federal funding period, CHRP positions are to be added to the grantees’ existing law enforcement budget. At this point, these positions are to be funded through state or local funds, over and above the number of positions funded prior to the receipt of the CHRP grant. The funded positions must be retained for at least 12 months.

ABC News Reporter Jon Garcia quoted Biden's announcement before a crowd gathered in Philadelphia on Tuesday. Reflecting upon the nation's recent economic woes, Biden offered, "One of the places that has been hardest hit – most essential for the well-being of our citizens and their safety – has been law enforcement. We can't achieve...the goal of a stronger community without stronger police forces." The COPS funding is a component of the federal stimulus funding approved by Congress earlier this year and should supply approximately 4,700 police officers over the three year period. The COPS program set an initial goal earlier this year at 5,000 positions. Due to the nation's recent economic down-turn, funding requests under the program were especially high this year and a record number of requests were received. Approximately \$1 in federal grant funding was awarded for every \$8 requested. Roughly 1,000 municipalities across the nation received funding based upon an established formula prepared by the United States Justice Department. COPS funds are allocated through a thorough review of municipal fiscal budget factors, crime rates, and community policing plans. Dave Buchanan, acting director for the federal program, announced in a written statement that the funding allocation review system also "takes into account things like unemployment rates and other community statistics."

The Salisbury Police Department is an Internationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency dedicated to providing quality law enforcement services with honest, fair, and ethical treatment of all. The Salisbury Police Department facility is located at 130 E. Liberty Street in Salisbury, North Carolina. The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at www.salisburync.gov.

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